



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEDERAL EMPLOYEE SENTENCED FOR COMPUTER HACKING TO PROMOTE PROSTITUTION

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a former federal employee in Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced in federal court today for illegally using her computer access at the Department of Health and Human Services to promote her own unlawful prostitution business.

Candice G. Smith, 44, of Blue Springs, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey this morning to four years of probation, including four months of home detention.

On July 28, 2005, **Smith** pleaded guilty to unauthorized computer intrusion. **Smith** admitted that she made unauthorized and illegal inquiries into the LexisNexis database that was available to her as a payment recovery specialist for the Center for Medicaid Services (an agency of the Department of Health and Human Services). LexisNexis is a data collection company that provides a database containing non-public information that may only be used for approved purposes, such as credit history and driver's license information, to certain private and government agencies. For example, it is permissible for a government agency to query LexisNexis for law enforcement purposes. LexisNexis may not, however, be queried by an individual to promote personal financial gain.'

Smith, who had been working as a prostitute, made LexisNexis inquiries for personal reasons even though she knew that it was prohibited to do so, and she used the information to aid her in avoiding arrest and prosecution for her prostitution activities. **Smith** queried LexisNexis on numerous occasions, without the authority to do so and for her own purpose.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jeff Valenti. It was investigated by the Department of Health and Human Service - Office of Inspector General, the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Federal Protective Service.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow